

IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please amend the claims in accordance with the following LISTING OF CLAIMS wherein the amended claims are indicated as "original", "currently amended", "cancelled", "withdrawn", "new" "previously presented", or "not entered" as the case may be. In accordance with the Rules, the text of cancelled and not entered claims is not presented.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A leverage end cap for use on a baton having a generally cylindrical elongated handle portion defining the longitudinal axis of the baton and adapted to be grasped in a user's hand, the handle having ~~and defining a~~ proximal end and an opposite distal end, the leverage end cap comprising:

a unitary body defining a longitudinal axis and having an enlarged knob end;

said body having an opposite generally cylindrical end having a diameter similar to the cylindrical handle portion of the baton and adapted for attaching the cap to the baton at the proximal end of the baton in substantially axial alignment therewith, and

said body further having a reduced diameter ~~tapered neck portion~~ circumferential groove of concave profile intermediate and contiguous to said knob and attaching ends configured and sized to receive the little finger of the user's hand in generally wrapped relation during use such that at least the pointing finger of the user's hand wraps about and grips the handle portion of the baton so as to firmly grip the baton ~~can be firmly held adjacent the proximal end of the baton with a steadfast grip, whereby the end cap increases the effective moment arm of the baton.~~

2. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 1, wherein the knob is generally hemispheric in shape.

3. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 2, wherein the generally hemispheric knob defines a generally flattened exposed end surface.

4. (Currently amended) The leverage end cap of claim 3, wherein a distal end of the knob defines the ~~tapered neck portion~~ circumferential groove of concave profile.

5. (Currently amended) The leverage end cap of claim 1, wherein said opposite end of said body includes ~~a generally cylindrical segment having an internal thread for cooperative axial engagement with a baton having an externally threaded proximal end segment of the baton.~~

6. (Currently amended) The leverage end cap of claim 5, wherein the generally cylindrical segment and knob ends of the cap are formed integral with the ~~tapered neck circumferential groove portion~~.

7. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 1, wherein the enlarged knob end defines a means for holding a decorative element.

8. (Currently amended) A leverage end cap for use on an expandable baton having an elongated generally cylindrical handle defining the longitudinal axis of the baton and adapted to receive ~~and~~ at least one internal telescoping section extendable from a distal end of the handle, the end cap, comprising:

a unitary body having an enlarged knob defining a proximal end of the end cap;

said body having a threaded cylindrical segment distal end having a diameter similar to the diameter of the elongated baton handle but of a smaller external diameter ~~diameter~~ than said knob and configured to releasably attach the end cap generally axially to the baton handle at a threaded proximal end of the baton handle, and

said body having an annular tapered neck portion disposed between and contiguous to said knob and said cylindrical segment distal end, said neck portion being sized to receive the little finger of a user's hand in wrapped relation about said neck portion so that the little finger is captured between said knob and cylindrical segment distal end, said end cap having a longitudinal length such that at least the pointing finger of the user's gripping hand can grip a proximal end portion of the baton handle whereby the baton can thereafter be held firmly adjacent the proximal end of the baton handle with a steadfast grip with the leverage end cap creating an increased leveraged moment arm.

9. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 8, wherein the knob is generally hemispheric in shape.

10. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 9, wherein the generally hemispheric knob defines a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being flattened.

11. (Previously presented) The leverage cap of claim 10, wherein the distal end of the knob defines the tapered neck portion.

12. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 8, wherein the cylindrical segment has an internal threads surface for cooperative engagement with a baton handle having an externally threaded proximal end segment.

13. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 12, wherein the cylindrical segment and knob are formed integral with the tapered neck portion.

14. (Previously presented) The leverage end cap of claim 8, wherein the knob defines a means for holding a decorative element.

15. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing the use of a baton having an elongated hand-graspable generally cylindrical handle defining the longitudinal axis of the baton and having a proximal end and a distal end, said method including the steps of:

providing a leverage end cap having a unitary body defining an enlarged proximal end knob, a generally hour-glass shaped annular neck portion contiguous to said end knob and having a minor diameter smaller than the end knob, and a generally cylindrical distal end contiguous to said neck portion and having a diameter generally similar to the diameter of the baton handle, said distal end defining means for attachment to the proximal end of the baton handle;

attaching the leverage end cap to the proximal end of the baton so that the end cap is generally axially aligned with the baton;

grasping the baton such that the little, or pinky, finger of the user's baton-holding hand is received in and wraps about the neck portion of the leveraged baton cap with the remaining fingers of the hand wrapped about the baton on or adjacent the end cap; and

maintaining said grasp throughout use of the baton.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, including the step of providing cooperative threadings within the leverage end cap and on the proximal end of the baton such that the baton and end cap can be releasably and rotatably connected.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A leveraging end cap for use with an expandable baton having an elongated generally cylindrical tubular handle section defining the longitudinal axis of the baton and having a proximal end and an opposite distal end, the proximal end having a peripheral thread thereon adapted to receive ~~an~~the end cap in mounted relation thereon;

said leveraging end cap including a unitary body having a first end adapted for releasable threaded engagement with the peripheral thread on the proximal end of the baton handle section so that the leveraging end cap is substantially axially aligned with the baton handle, said leveraging end cap having an enlarged knob second end and defining a circumferential reduced diameter curvilinear surface between and contiguous to said first and second ends of said leveraging end cap, said curvilinear surface being sized to establish a finger grip to receive only the small finger of a user's hand in wrapped relation thereon when the proximal end of the baton handle is grasp in the user's hand, said leveraging end cap being

operative to create a greater effective impact force moment for the baton when grasp by the user's hand than obtained when the tubular handle is grasp generally midlength thereof.

19. (Previously presented) A leveraging end cap as defined in Claim 18 wherein the knob end of the end cap is sized to engage the lateral outermost surface of the user's little finger when wrapped about the circumference curvilinear surface so as to prevent axial slippage of the baton from the user's hand during use.